would not be adequate to uplift the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(b) if so, the details of concrete plans to improve the economic condition of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes especially the poorest of the poor in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBALAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The strategies of Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and the Tribal Sub Plan for Scheduled Tribes (STs) have been evolved with the objective of ensuring socio economic development of these communities through programmes of land reforms, agriculture, animal husbandry, village and small industries, small business etc. Special Central Assistance (SCA) is also provided to States and UTs implementing Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan which is meant for giving added thrust to the economic development programme of these groups. Besides these, three National Finance and Development Corporations for Scheduled Castes (NSFDC), Scheduled Tribes (NSTFDC) and for Safai Karamcharis (NSKFDC) have been set up for financing income generating activities. The Centrally Sponsored Schemes for Assistance to Scheduled Castes Development Corporations (SCDCs) and Scheduled Tribes Development Corporations (TDCs) provide share capital contribution of 49% for the economic development of SCs and STs. The main functions of these Corporations include identification of eligible SC and ST families and motivating them to take up projects for economic development.

Commission for economically backward classes

4148. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have approved contribution of the Commission for the economically backward classes (EBCs); and

(b) if so, the terms of reference and the time-frarfie fixed for the Commission to make its recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBALAKSHMI JAGADEESAN) : (a) to (b) Yes, Sir. The Commission will consists of Chairperson, one Member and **a** Member-Secretary.

The terms of reference of the Commission are as below:—

(i) to elicit the views of the State Governments/UTs and other Commissions on the subject;

(ii) to suggest criteria for identification of economically backward classes;

(iii) to recommend the welfare measures and quantum of reservation in education and Government Employment in consultation with the' National Commission for Religious & Linguistic Minorities;

(iv) to suggest the necessary constitutional, legal and administrative modalities as required for the implementation of their recommendations.

The Commission will submit the report of its deliberations and recommendations within a period of 6 months of the appointment of the Chairperson of the Commission.

Funds to voluntary organisations

† 4149. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds sanctioned to the voluntary organisations in Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Maharashtra for the year 2004-05, scheme-wise and district-wise;

(b) the details of the projects of the voluntary organisations from these States for the year 2004-05 which are still pending for approval; and

(c) the reasons for not according sanction to these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBALAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) A Statement showing the details of amount released to the Voluntary Organisations in Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Maharashtra during the year 2004-05 is enclosed as a Statement. (See below)

(.b) The details of pending projects received from the above States is as under:

Name of State	No. of pending projects
Uttar Pradesh	181
Uttaranchal	12
Maharashtra	62

(c) Sanction of the projects to NGOs are considered provided that their proposals are complete in all respects and based on the availability of funds and number of projects already existing in the area.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.